

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 21, 2004. Claims 30 to 69 are in the application, of which Claims 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 68 and 69 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 30 to 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,228,118 (Sasaki) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,924,320 (Tanaka). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to an information processing apparatus that uses appropriate device drivers for image processing based on a device ID of a connected device. After coupling via the communications medium, the device ID is determined by the device based on the type of the communications medium and subsequently transmitted to the information processing apparatus. In response to reception of the device ID, the information processing apparatus creates a one-to-one association between the device and the device driver. In addition, the information processing apparatus may generate an alarm if no device drivers are present for the coupled device.

Turning now to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 30 is directed to an information processing apparatus which is connectable to a device via a cable, comprising: a detecting unit adapted to detect whether or not a communication medium is connected to the information processing apparatus which is connectable to a device for receiving image data formed using a device driver via the communication medium and for processing the image data; an obtaining unit adapted to obtain a device ID which is defined as one of different IDs provided for each device model in response to a detection, by the detecting unit, of the

communication medium wherein the device driver for driving the device and the device ID are in a one-to-one association; a discriminating unit adapted to discriminate whether or not the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed; and a warning unit adapted to warn when said discriminating unit discriminates that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed in the information processing apparatus.

In contrast, Sasaki discloses a printing system including a plurality of devices identified by interpreter identification data. Tanaka discloses a paper feeding unit as an optional unit transmitting an ID indicating a type of the feeding unit. As such, neither Sasaki nor Tanaka disclose or suggest a device driver for driving a device and a device ID that are in a one-to-one association. That is, as described above, Tanaka discloses a paper feeding unit transmitting an ID indicating its own type but is completely silent on a device for receiving image data formed using a device driver via a communication medium and for processing the image data. Therefore, Tanaka neither discloses nor suggests a device driver corresponding to the paper feeding unit. Furthermore, Tanaka never suggests obtaining a device ID, which the device determines to transmit to the information processing apparatus, on the basis of a type of the connected communication medium, wherein the device driver for driving the device and the device ID are in a one-to-one association.

Therefore, Sasaki and Tanaka, neither alone nor in combination, disclose nor suggest a device ID determined by a device based on a communications medium and used by an information processing apparatus to create a one-to-one association between the device and the device driver. As such, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 30 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

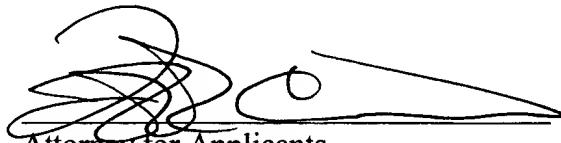
Amended independent Claims 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 68 and 69 incorporate substantially the same features as amended independent Claim 30. Applicant submits that the discussion above in regard to Claim 30 applies equally to Claims 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 68 and 69. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 68 and 69 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for the same reasons. However, as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a stylized, elongated flourish extending to the right.

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